

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Butte Creek Watershed Coordinator Assistant

Name of Applicant and Principal Investigator

Allen Harthorn, Chair, Board of Directors
Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC) has received a grant from the For the Sake of the Salmon (FSOS) to fund a watershed coordinator. This proposal is to provide matching funds to support the efforts of the coordinator that will soon be hired by the BCWC. BCWC is involved in a long-range planning effort involving landowners, stakeholders, agencies and the Department of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico (CSUC) and funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CALFED and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Significant technical support has been provided by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). This process involves coordinating stakeholder and watershed advisory committee (WAC) meetings, coordinating the development of an existing conditions report, researching data gaps, developing a watershed management strategy (WMS) and developing an implementation strategy. The scope of work for this process is extensive and FSOS has recognized the need for a coordinator to assist with the day to day operations of this project. The coordinator assistant will be the primary staff person responsible to the coordinator, BCWC and the WAC. The BCWC has provided an office for the coordinator and the assistant and will arrange all necessary payroll and supplies to support the office. The coordinator and the assistant are key employees in integrating the many diverse interests and entities in the watershed. The position will be for one year. The request is for \$32,270 to cover the cost of the full time assistant, benefits and operating expenses.

Approach/ Tasks/Schedule

Watershed coordination is a recognized necessity to facilitate the process of identifying watershed needs and the strategies to implement restoration, protection and enhancement activities. The coordinator assistant will be responsible for support of the Watershed Coordinator and activities related to the planning and implementation of the stakeholder and WAC meetings, maintaining mailing lists, assisting with reporting, and management of the BCWC office and information output.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

FSOS has determined that Butte Creek is one of the top priority watersheds in Northern California because of the unique runs of spring run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Development of a watershed management strategy is critical to the protections of these species and their habitats. These objectives are consistent with CALFED objectives and matching support is justified to facilitate the process.

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Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The budget for the coordinator assistant is:

Salary	\$18,720
Fringe benefits	5,616
Other direct costs	5,000
Overhead 10%	2,934
Total	\$32,270

There will no third party impacts from the hiring of a staff assistant. This position will be solely to support the coordination and planning efforts of the Watershed Coordinator and the BCWC.

Applicant Qualifications

The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy was formed in September of 1995 to protect, restore and enhance the cultural, economic and ecological heritage of the Butte Creek Watershed through cooperative landowner actions. The BCWC has been instrumental in initiating a number of critical efforts to achieve this mission. BCWC works closely with CSUC, stakeholders and the agencies involved in management of these resources and has expanded its roles dramatically in recent months. BCWC received non-profit 501 (c) 3 status in November of 1996 and received its first grant in February of this year. The grant is for the Watershed Coordinator and BCWC has been meeting the requirements of the funding foundation, FSOS, to ensure that the selection of the coordinator is supported by a broad base of stakeholders and other interests. BCWC recently completed the first election of directors and ratified the new board at the July meeting. The board consist of representatives from the upper watershed, upper ridge, canyon and valley sections. Board members individually represent Sierra Pacific Industries, farming interests, conservation and fishing groups, and private landowners. This group has met the requirements for diversity set by FSOS and approval has been given to execute the contract and hire the watershed coordinator. The fiscal agent for the BCWC is Scott Gailey, CPA, founding director with over 12 years experience with all aspect of accounting and fiscal management.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The coordinator assistant will be evaluated regularly by the Watershed Coordinator and the Board of Directors of BCWC to ensure timely and efficient completion of the duties required.

Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

The project on Butte Creek to develop a WMS has brought together almost all the agencies and stakeholders involved in resource management and has received unparalleled support for these efforts. Successful development of a watershed plan for Butte Creek is a high priority for CALFED, USFWS and CDFG.